

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, SCUL, SOCI
SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE CITES PROMINENT JEWS IN UZBEKISTAN

1. ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "SOVETSKAYA KUL'TURA" ON MARCH 17, 1978, ENTITLED "FACTS AGAINST LIES", SEEKS TO REBUT WESTERN CRITICISM OF SOVIET REPRESSION OF MINORITIES, AND SPECIFICALLY OF THE JEWISH MINORITY, BY CITING PROMINENT CULTURAL FIGURES IN UZBEKISTAN WHO ARE JEWISH. AUTHOR IS BAKHRIDDIN NASREDDINOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDUM OF THEATER SOCIETY OF UZBEKISTAN, AND JUDGING BY TEXT, AN ELDERLY MAN, WHO LABELS HIMSELF AN ART CRITIC ("ISKUSSTVOVED").

2. NASREDDINOV STARTS OFF BY CITING "CAMPAIGN" IN WESTERN PRESS (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR IS ONLY PAPER SPECIFIED) TO "BLACKEN" SOVIET REALITY AND TO PERSUADE READERS THAT JEWS LIVING IN CENTRAL ASIA, INCLUDING UZBEKISTAN, ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. THE TARGET FOR THIS "PROPAGANDA" IS YOUTH, "PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF

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THOSE SMALL NATIONALITIES ALLEGEDLY IN NEED OF DEFENSE." HARKING BACK TO THE 20S, AUTHOR RECALLS A SIMILAR CAMPAIGN TO ORGANIZE JEWS IN THE AREA OF CENTRAL ASIA TO JOIN A "NATIONALIST-CHAUVINIST, BOURGEOIS ORGANIZATION" TERMED TORBUT IN TASHKENT, IN OPPOSITION TO THE YOUNG SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

3. NASREDDINOV GOES ON FOR THREE COLUMNS TO LIST ARTISTS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, ACTORS, DIRECTORS, COMPOSERS, ET AL, WHO EITHER HAVE BEEN OR ARE LEADING SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN UZBEKISTAN DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE JEWISH. BUT, HE CONTINUES, THERE ARE, UNFORTUNATELY, AMONG THE JEWS "THOSE WHO, AGAINST THEIR OWN AMONG THE JEWS "THOSE WHO, AGAINST THEIR OWN INTERESTS, YIELD TO THE REACTIONARY-CHAUVINISTIC PREACHINGS OF ZIONISTS, AND STRIVE FOR THE 'PARADISE' OF LIFE IN THE BOURGEOIS WORLD." ACCORDING TO HIM, THEY ARE QUICKLY DISILLUSIONED BY CONTACT WITH THIS WORLD.

4. SINCE "SOVETSKAYA KUL'TURA" OFTEN PURSUES A SUBJECT IN SUBSEQUENT ISSUES, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF MORE ARTICLES CITING PROMINENT JEWS IN OTHER SOVIET REPUBLICS BEGIN TO APPEAR. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE A FURTHER INDICATION OF INCREASING SENSITIVITY TO WESTERN BROADCASTS AND THEIR EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITIES WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION. TOON

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